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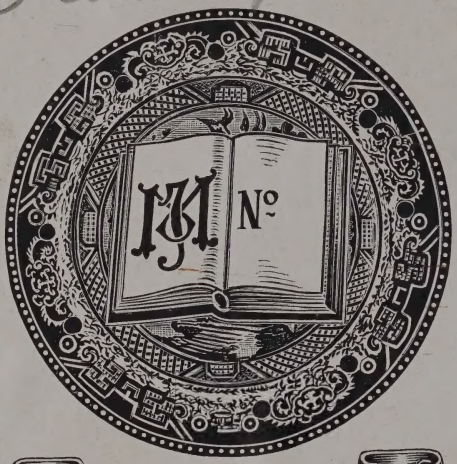

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MERRIE CONCEITED IESTS,

OF *GEORGE PEELE* GENTLEMAN, SOMETIMES STVDENT IN OXFORD.

Wherein is ſhewed the courſe of his life, how he liued: a man very well knowne in the City of LONDON, and elſewhere.

Buy, reade, and iudge,
The price doe not grudge:
It will doe thee more pleaſure,
Than twice ſo much treaſure.

LONDON,
Printed for *Henry Bell*, dwelling in the Little Old Baily in *Eliots* Court.

1809

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J. Smeeton, Printer, 148, St. Martin's Lane.

The Ieſts of GEORGE PEELE, with foure of his Companions at *Brainford.*

GEorge, with others of his Aſſociates, being merry together at the Tauerne, hauing more ſtore of Coine than uſually they did poſſeſſe, although they were as regardeleſſe of their ſiluer, as a garden whore is of her honeſty, yet they intended for a ſeaſon to become good huſbands, if they knew how to be ſparing of that their pockets were then furniſht withall: Five pounds they had amongſt them, and a plot muſt be caſt how they might be merry with extraordinary cheare three or foure dayes, and keepe their five pounds whole in ſtocke: *George Peele* was the man muſt doe it, or none, and generally they coniurde him by their loues, his owne credit, and the reputation that went on him, that he would but in this ſhew his wit: and withall he ſhould haue all the furtherance that in them lay. *George* as eaſie as they earneſt to be wonne to ſuch an exploit, conſented, and gathered their mony together, and gaue it all to *George*, who ſhould be their Purſe-bearer, and the other foure ſhould ſeeme as ſeruants to *George Peele*; and the better to colour it, they ſhould goe change their cloaks, the one like the other, ſo neere as they could possible:

the which at *Belzebubs* brother the Brokers, they might quickly doe: This was ſoone accompliſhed, and *George* was furniſhed with his blacke Sattin ſuit, and a paire of boots, which were as familiar to his legs, as the Pillory to a Bakers or Colliers necke, and he ſufficiently poſſeſt his friends with the whole ſcope of his intent, as, gentle Reader, the ſequell will ſhew. Inſtantly they tooke a paire of Oares, whoſe armes were to make a falſe gallop no further than *Brainford*, where their fare was paid them ſo liberally, that each of them the next tide to *London*, purchaſed two new waſtcoats, yet ſhould theſe good benefactors come to their uſuall places of trade, and if they ſpie a better fare than their owne, that haply the Gentleman hath more minde to goe withall, they will not onely fall out with him that is of their owne ſweet tranſporters, as they are: but abuſe the faire with foule ſpeeches, as, a Pox, or the Deuill goe with you, as their Godfather *Caron* the Ferry-man of Hell hath taught them. I ſpeake not this of all, but of ſome that are brought vp in the Eaſt, ſome in the Weſt, ſome in the North; but moſt part in the South: but for the reſt they are honeſt compleat men, leauing them to come to my honeſt *George*, who is now merry at the three Pigeons in *Brainford*, with Sack and Sugar, not any wine wanting, the Muſicians playing, my hoſt drinking, my hoſtis dancing with the worſhipfull Juſtice, for ſo then he was termed, and his manſion houſe in *Kent*, who came thither of purpoſe to be merry with his men, becauſe he could not ſo conueniently neare home, by reaſon of a ſhrewiſh wife he had: my gentle hoſtis gaue him all the entertainment her houſe could afford; for Maſter *Peele* had paid royally, for all his fiue pounds was come to ten groats. Now *George Peeles* wit labours to bring in that fiue pounds there was ſpent, which was ſoone begotten. Being ſet at dinner, My Hoſt, quoth *George*,

George, how fals the Tide out for *London*? Not till the euening, quoth mine Hoſt, haue you any buſineſſe ſir? Yes marry, quoth *George*, I intend not to go home this two dayes: Therefore my Hoſt ſaddle my man a horſe for *London*, if you be ſo well furniſhed, for I muſt ſend him for one bag more, quoth *George*, ten pounds hath ſeene no Sunne this ſix moneths. I am ill furniſhed if I cannot furniſh you with that, quoth my Hoſt, and preſently ſadled him a good Nag, and away rides one of *Georges* men to *London*, attending the good houre of his Maſter *Peele* in *London*. In the meane time *George* beſpeaks great cheare to ſupper, ſaying, he expected ſome of his friends from *London*. Now you muſt imagine there was not a penny owing in the houſe, for he had paid as liberally as Cæſar, as farre as Cæſars wealth went. For indeed moſt of the mony was one Cæſars an honeſt man yet liuing in *London*. But to the Cataſtrophe. All the day before, had one of the other men of *George Peele* beene a great ſoliciter to my Hoſtis, ſhe would beg leaue of his Maſter he might goe ſee a maid, a ſweet heart of his ſo farre as *Kingſtone*, and before his Maſter went to bed he would returne againe: ſaying, he was ſure ſhe might command it at his Maſters hands. My kinde Hoſtis willing to pleaſure the young fellow, knowing in her time what belonged to ſuch matters, went to Maſter *Peele*, and moued him in it, which he angerly refuſed: but ſhe was ſo earneſt in it, that ſhe ſwore he ſhould not deny her, proteſting he went but to ſee an Uncle of his ſome five miles off: Marie I thanke you, quoth *George*, my good Hoſtis, would you ſo diſcredit me, or hath the knaue no more wit, than at this time to goe, knowing I haue no horſe here, and would the baſe cullian goe a foot? Nay, good ſir, quoth mine Hoſtis, be not angry, it is not his intent to goe a foot: for he ſhall haue my Mare, and I will assure you Sir,

upon

upon my word he ſhall be here againe to haue you to bed; well, quoth *George*, Hoſtis, Ile take you at your word, let him go, his negligence ſhall light upon you. So be it, quoth mine Hoſtis: ſo downe goeth ſhe, and ſends away ciuill *Thomas*, for ſo ſhe cald him, to his ſweet heart backt upon her Mare: which *Thomas* in ſtead of riding to *Kingſtone*, tooke *London* in his way, where meeting with my other horſeman, attended the arriuall of *George Peele*, which was not long after: they are at *London*, *George* in his chamber at *Brainford*, accompanied with none but one *Anthony Nit* a Barber, who din'd and ſupt with him continually, of whom he had borrowed a Lute to paſſe away the melancholy afternoone, of which he could play as well as *Bankes* his horſe. The Barber very modeſtly takes his leaue, *George* obſequiouſly bids him to ſupper, who (God willing) would not faile. *George* being left alone with his two ſuppoſed men, gaue them the meane how to eſcape, and walking in the court, *George* found fault with the weather, ſaying it was rawiſh and cold: which word mine Hoſtis hearing, my kinde Hoſtis fetched her huſbands holiday gowne, which *George* thankfully put about him, and withall called for a cup of Sacke, after which he would walke into the Meddowes and practiſe upon his Lute. 'Tis good for your worſhip to do ſo, quoth mine Hoſtis: which walke *George* tooke directly to *Sion*, where hauing the aduantage of a paire of Oares at hand, made this iourny for *London*, his two Aſſociates behind had the plot in their heads by *Georges* inſtruction for their eſcape: for they knew he was gone, my Hoſtis ſhe was in the market buying of prouiſion for ſupper: mine Hoſt he was at Tables, and my two maſterleſſe men deſired the maids to excuſe them if their Maſter came, for, quoth they, we will goe drinke two pots with my Smug Smiths wife at old *Brainford*. I warrant you, quoth the Maids.

So

So away went my men to the Smiths at old *Brainford*, from thence to *London*; where they all met, and ſold the Horſe and the Mare, the Gowne and the Lute, which mony was as badly ſpent, as it was lewdly got. How my Hoſt and my Hoſtis lookt when they ſaw the euent of this; goe but to the three Pigeons at *Brainford*, you ſhall know.

The Ieſts of *George* and the *Barber*.

GEorge was not ſo merry at *London* with his Capons and Claret, as poore *Anthony* the Barber was ſorrowfull at *Brainford* for the loſſe of his Lute, and therefore determined to come to *London* to ſeeke out *George Peele*, which by the meanes of a kinſman that *Anthony Nit* had in *London*, his name was *Cuts* or *Feats*, a fellow that had good ſkill in tricks on the Cards, and he was well acquainted with the place where *Georges* common abode was: and for kindred ſake he directed the Barber where he ſhould haue him, which was at a blinde Alehouſe in Sea-coale lane. There he found *George* in a greene Jerkin, a Spaniſh platter faſhioned hat, all alone at a peck of Oyſters. The Barbers heart danc't within him for ioy he had ſo happily found him, he gaue him the time of the day: *George* not a little abaſhed at the ſight of the Barber, yet went not to diſcouer it openly, he that at all times had a quick inuention, was not now behind hand to entertaine my Barber, who knew for what his comming was: *George* thus ſaluted him, My honeſt Barber, quoth *George*, welcome to *London*, I partly know your buſineſſe, you come for your Lute, doe you not? Indeed Sir, quoth the Barber, for that is my comming. And belieue me, quoth *George*, you ſhall not loſe your labour; I pray you ſtand to and eat an Oyſter, and Ile goe with you preſently:

preſently: For a Gentleman in the City of great worſhip, borrowed it of me for the vſe of his Daughter, that playes exceeding well, and had a great deſire to haue the Lute: but, ſir, if you will goe along with me to the Gentlemans houſe, you ſhall haue your Lute with great ſatisfaction, for had not you come, I aſſure you I had ſent to you, for you muſt underſtand, that all that was done at *Brainford* among us mad Gentlemen, was but a ieſt, and no otherwiſe. Sir, I thinke not any otherwiſe, quoth the Barber: but I would deſire your worſhip, that as you had it of me in loue, ſo in kindneſſe you would helpe me to it againe. Oh God, what elſe, quoth *George*, Ile goe with thee preſently, euen as I am, for I came from Hunting this morning; and ſhould I goe up to the certaine Gentlemen aboue, I ſhould hardly get away. I thank you ſir, quoth the Barber, ſo on goes *George* with him in his green Jerkin, a wand in his hand very pretty, till he came almoſt at the Aldermans houſe, where making a ſodaine ſtay, Afore God, quoth *George*, I muſt craue thy pardon at this inſtant, for I haue bethought my ſelfe, ſhould I goe as I am, it would be imagined I had had ſome of my Lords hounds out this morning, therefore Ile take my leave of thee, and meet thee where thou wilt about one of the clocke. Nay good ſir, quoth the Barber, go with me now: for I purpoſe, God willing, to be at *Brainford* to night. Saiſt thou ſo, quoth *George*, why then Ile tell thee what thou ſhalt doe: thou art here a ſtranger, and altogether vnknowne, lend me thy cloake and thy hat, and do thou put on my greene Jerkin, and Ile go with thee directly along. The Barber loth to leaue him untill he had his Lute, yeelded to the change. So when they came to the Gentlemans porch, he put on *Georges* greene Jerkin, and his Spaniſh hat, and he the Barbers cloake and his hat. Either of them being thus fitted, *George* knocks at the doore, to whom

whom the Porter bids heartily welcome, for *George* was well knowne, who at that time had all the ouerſight of the Pageants: he deſires the Porter to bid his friend welcome, for he is a good fellow and a keeper, M. Porter, one that at his pleaſure can beſtow a haunch of Veniſon on you; Marry that can I, quoth the Barber. I thanke you ſir, anſwered the Porter, *M. Peele*, my Maſter is in the Hall, pleaſeth it you to walke in? With all my heart, quoth *George*, in the meane time let my friend beare you company. That he ſhall M. *Peele*, quoth the Porter, and if it pleaſe him he ſhall take a ſimple dinner with me. The Barber giues him hearty thanks, not miſdoubting M. *Peele* any way, ſeeing him known; and himſelfe ſo welcome; fell in chat with the Porter. *George Peele* goes directly to the Alderman, who now is come into the Court; in the eye of the Barber, where *George* after many complaints, draws a blacke paper out of his boſome, and making action to the Barber reads to the Alderman, as followeth; I humbly deſire your worſhip to ſtand my friend in a ſleight matter, yonder hard fauoured knave, that ſits by your Worſhips Porter, hath dog'd me to arreſt me, and I had no other means but to take your worſhips houſe for ſhelter, the occaſion is but triuiall, only for ſtealing of a peece of fleſh, my ſelfe conſorted with 3. or 4. Gentlemen of good faſhion, that would not willingly haue our names come in queſtion. Therefore this is my boone, that your worſhip would let one of your ſeruants let mee out at the Garden doore, and I ſhall thinke my ſelfe much indebted to your Worſhip. The kinde Gentleman little dreaming of *George Peeles* deceit, tooke him into the Parlor, gaue him a brace of Angels, and cauſed one of his ſeruants to let *George* out at the Garden doore; which was no ſooner opened, but *George* made way for the Barber ſeeing him any more, and all the way he went could not chuſe but

laugh at his knauiſh conceit, how he had guld the ſimple Barber, who ſate all this while with the Porter blowing of his nailes: to whom came this fellow that let out *George*. You whorſon Keeperly Raſcall, quoth the fellow, doe you come to arreſt any honeſt Gentleman in my Maſters houſe? Not I, ſo God helpe me, quoth the Barber, I pray ſir where is the Gentleman M. *Peele* that came along with me? Farre enough, quoth the fellow, for your comming neere him, he is gone out at the Garden doore. Garden doore, quoth the *Barber*, why, have you any more doores than one? We haue ſir, and get you hence or Ile ſet you going goodman Keeper. Alas, quoth the *Barber*, ſir I am no Keeper, I am quite vndone: I am a *Barber* dwelling at *Brainford*, and with weeping teares vp and told him how *George* had vſed him. The ſeruant goes in and tels his Maſter: which when he heard, he could not but laugh at the firſt: yet in pitty of the poore *Barber*, he gaue him twenty ſhillings towards his loſſe. The *Barber* ſighing tooke it, and towards *Brainford* home he goes, and whereas he came from thence in a new Cloake and a faire Hat, he went home weeping in an old Hat, and a greene Jerkin.

How *George Peele* became a Phyſician.

GEorge on a time being happily furniſhed both of horſe and mony, though the horſe he hired, and the money he borrowed: but no matter how he was poſſeſt of them: and towards *Oxford* he rides to make merrie with his friends and fellow ſtudents: and in his way he tooke vp *Wickham*, where he ſoiourned that night: being at ſupper, accompanied with his Hoſtis, among other table-talke, they fell into diſcourſe of Chirurgerie, of which my Hoſtis was a ſimple profeſſour. *George Peele* obſeruing the

the humour of my ſhee Chirurgian; vpheld her in all the ſtrange cures ſhe talked of, and praiſed her womanly endeuour; telling her, he loued her ſo much the better, becauſe it was a thing that he profeſſed, both Phyſicke and Chirurgerie: and *George* had a Dictionarie of Phyſicall words, that it might ſet a better gloſſe vpon that which he ſeemingly profeſt: and told his good Hoſtis at his returne he would teach her ſomething that ſhould doe her no hurt: for (quoth he) at this inſtant I am going about a great Cure as farre as *Warwick-ſhire*, to a Gentleman of great liuing, and one that hath beene in a Conſumption this halfe yeare, and I hope to doe him good. O God (quoth the Hoſtis) there is a Gentleman not a quarter of a Mile off, that hath beene a long time ſicke of the ſame diſeaſe: Beleeue me, ſir, quoth the Hoſtis, would it pleaſe your worſhip e're your departure in the morning, but to viſit the Gentleman, and but ſpend your opinion of him, and I make no queſtion but the Gentlewoman will be very thankfull to you. I faith (quoth *George*) haply at my returne I may; but at this time my haſte is ſuch that I cannot: and ſo good night mine Hoſtis. So away went *George* to bed; and my giddy Hoſtis, right of the nature of moſt women, thought that night as long as ten, till ſhe was deliuered of that burthen of newes which ſhe had receiued from my new Doctor: (for ſo he termed himſelf.) Morning being come, at breake of the day mine Hoſtis trudges to this Gentlemans houſe, acquainted his wife what an excellent man ſhe had at her houſe: proteſting he was the beſt ſeene in Phyſicke, and had done the moſt ſtrangeſt cures that euer ſhe heard of: ſaying that if ſhe would but ſend for him, no queſtion he would do him good. The gentlewoman glad to heare of any thing that might procure the health of her Huſband, preſently ſent one of her men to deſire the Doctor to come and viſit her

Husband: Which message when *George* heard, he wondred; for he had no more skill in Physicke, than in Musicke, and they were as distant both from him, as heauen from hell. But, to conclude, *George* set a bold face on it, and away went he to the sicke Gentleman; where when he came, after some complement to the Gentlewoman, he was brought to the Chamber, where the ancient Gentleman lay wonderfull sicke, for all Physicke had giuen him ouer: *George* begins to feele his Pulses, and his Temples, saying, he was very farre spent: yet, quoth he, vnder God, I wil doe him some good, if Nature be not quite extinct. Whereupon he demanded whether they had euer a Garden? That I haue, quoth the Gentlewoman. I pray you direct me thither, quoth *George:* Where when he came, he cut a handful of euery flower, herb and blossome, or whatsoeuer else in the Garden, and brought them in the lapid of his cloake, boyled them in Ale, strained them, boiled them againe; and when he had all the iuyce out of them, of which he made some pottle of drinke, he caused the sicke Gentleman to drinke off a maudlin Cupfull, and willed his wife to giue him of that same at morning, noone, and night: protesting, if any thing in this world did him good, it must be that: giuing great charge to the Gentlewoman to keepe him wonderfull warme: and at my returne, quoth *George,* some ten daies hence, I will returne and see how he fares: For, quoth he, by that time some thing will be done, and so I will take my leaue. Not so, quoth the Gentlewoman, your worship must needs stay and take a simple dinner with me to day. Indeed, quoth *George,* I cannot now stay; my haste is such, I must presently to Horse. You may suppose *George* was in haste vntill he was out of the Gentlewomans house: for he knew not whether he had poysoned the Gentleman or not, which made him so eager to be gone out of the Gentlemans house.

houſe. The Gentlewoman ſeeing ſhe could by no meanes ſtay him gaue him two brace of Angels, which neuer ſhined long in his purſe, and deſired him at his returne to know her houſe: which *George* promiſed, and with ſeeming niceneſſe took the gold, and towards Oxford went he, forty ſhillings heauier than he was, where he brauely domineered while his Phyſicall money laſted. But to ſee the ſtrangeneſſe of this: Whether it was the vertue of ſome herbe which he gathered, or the conceit the Gentleman had of *George Peele*, but it ſo pleaſed God the Gentleman recouered; and in eight daies walked abroad; and that fortunate potion which *George* made at randome, did him more good than many pounds that he had ſpent in halfe a yeare before in Phyſicke. *George* his money being ſpent, he made his returne towards London; and when he came within a mile of the Gentlemans houſe, he inquired of a countrey fellow how ſuch a Gentleman did. The fellow told him God be praiſed, his good Landlord was well recouered by a vertuous Gentleman that came this way by chance. Art thou ſure of it, quoth *George?* Yes, beleeue me, quoth the fellow; I ſaw him in the fields but this morning. This was no ſimple newes to *George*. He preſently ſet ſpurres to his Horſe, and whereas hee thought to ſhun the towne, he went directly to his Inne: at whoſe arriuall, the Hoſtis clapt her hands, the Oaſtler laught, the Tapſter leapt, the Chamberlaine ran to the Gentlemans houſe, and told him the Doctor was come. How ioyfull the Gentleman was, let them imagine that haue any after-healths. *George Peele* was ſent for, and after a million of thanks from the Gentleman, and his friends, *George Peele* had twenty pounds deliuered him: which money, how long it was a ſpending, let the Tauernes in *London* witneſſe.

How

How *George* helped his friend to a Supper.

GEorge was inuited one night by certaine of his friends to ſupper, at the White Horſe in Friday Street; and in the Euening as he was going, he met with an old friend of his, who was ſo ill at the ſtomacke, hearing *George* tel him of the good cheere he went to, himſelfe being vnprouided both of meat and mony, that he ſwore he had rather haue gone a mile about than haue met him at that inſtant. And beleeue me, quoth *George*, I am hartily ſorry that I cannot take thee along with me, my ſelfe being but an inuited gueſt; beſides, thou art out of cloathes, vnfitting for ſuch a company: Marry this Ile doe, if thou wilt follow my aduice, Ile helpe thee to thy ſupper. Any way, quoth he to *George*, doe thou but deviſe the meanes, and Ile execute it. *George* preſently told him what he ſhould doe; ſo they parted. *George* well entertained, with extraordinary welcome, and ſeated at the vpper end of the Table, Supper being brought vp, *H. M.* watched his time below; and when he ſaw that the meat was carried vp, vp he followes, (as *George* had directed him,) who when *George* ſaw, You whorſon Raſcall (quoth *George*) what make you here? Sir, quoth he, I am come from the party you wot of. You Rogue, (quoth *George*) haue I not forewarned you of this? I pray you, Sir, quoth he, heare my Errand. Doe you prate, you ſlaue, quoth *George*, and with that tooke a Rabbet out of the Diſh, and threw it at him. Quoth he, you vſe me very hardly. You Dunghill, quoth *George*, doe you out-face me? and with that tooke the other Rabbet, and threw it at his head; after that a Loafe; then drawing his dagger making an offer to throw it, the Gentlemen ſtaid him: meane while *H. M.* got the Loafe and the two Rabbets, and away he went:

went: which when *George* ſaw he was gone, after a little fretting, he ſate quietly. So by that honeſt ſhift he helped his friend to his ſupper, and was neuer ſuſpected for it of the company.

How *George Peele* was ſhauen, and of the reuenge he tooke.

THere was a Gentleman that dwelt in the Weſt Countrey, and had ſtayed here in *London* a Tearme longer than hee intended, by reaſon of a Booke that *George* had to tranſlate out of Greeke into Engliſh: and when he wanted money, *George* had it of the Gentleman; but the more he ſupplied him of Coine, the further off he was from his Booke, and could get no end of it, neither by faire meanes, entreaty, or double paiment; for *George* was of the Poetical diſpoſition, neuer to write ſo long as his mony laſted, ſome quarter of the booke being done, and lying in his hands at randome: The Gentleman had plotted a means to take ſuch an order with *George* next time hee came, that hee would haue his Booke finiſhed. It was not long before he had his company; his arriuall was for more mony: the Gentleman bids him welcome, cauſeth him to ſtay dinner, where falling into diſcourſe about his Booke, found that it was as neere ended as he left it two moneths agoe. The Gentleman, meaning to be guld no longer, cauſed two of his men to binde *George*, hand and foot in a Chaire: a folly it was for him to aſke what they meant by it: the Gentleman ſent for a Barber, and *George* had a beard of an indifferent ſize, and well growne, he made the Barber ſhaue him beard and head, left him as bare of haire, as he was of money: the Barber he was well contented for his paines, who left *George* like an old woman in mans apparell; and his voyce became it well,

well, for it was more woman than man. *George*, quoth the Gentleman, I haue alwaies vſed you like a friend, my purſe hath beene open to you; that you haue of mine to tranſlate, you know it is a thing I highly eſteeme, therefore I haue vſed you in this faſhion, that I might haue an end of my Booke, which ſhall be as much for your profit as my pleaſure. So forthwith he commanded his men to vnbinde him, and putting his hand into his pocket, gaue him two brace of Angels: quoth he, M. *Peele*, drinke this, and by that time you haue finiſhed my booke, your beard will be growne, vntill which time I know you will be aſhamed to walke abroad. *George* patiently tooke the gold, ſaid little, and when it was darke night, tooke his leaue of the Gentleman, and went directly home: who when his wife ſaw, I omit the wonder ſhe made, but imagine thoſe that ſhall behold their huſbands in ſuch a caſe. To bed went George, and ere morning he had plotted ſufficiently how to cry *quid pro quo* with his politicke Gentleman.

The Ieſt of *George Peele* at *Briſtow*.

GEorge was at Briſtow, and there ſtaying ſome what longer than his coine would laſt him, his Palfrey that ſhould be his Carrier to *London*, his head was growne ſo big, that he could not get him out of the ſtable. It ſo fortuned at that inſtant, certaine Players came to the Towne, and lay at that Inne where *George Peele* was: to whom *George* was well knowne, being in that time an excellent Poet, and had acquaintance of moſt of the beſt Plaiers in *England:* from the triuiall ſort he was but ſo ſo; of which theſe were, onely knew *George* by name, no otherwiſe. There was not paſt three of the company come with the Carriage, the reſt were behinde, by reaſon of

of a long Journey they had, ſo that night they could not enact, which *George* hearing, had preſently a Stratageme in his head to get his Horſe free out of the ſtable, and Money in his purſe to beare his charges vp to *London*. And thus it was: He goes directly to the Mayor, tels him he was a Scholler and a Gentleman, and that he had a certaine Hiſtory of the Knight of the Rodes; and withall, how *Briſtow* was firſt founded and by whom, and a briefe of all thoſe that before him had ſucceeded in Office in that worſhipfull Citie: deſiring the Mayor, that he with his preſence, and the reſt of his Brethren, would grace his labours. The Mayor agreed to it, gaue him leaue, and withall appointed him a place, but for himſelfe he could not be there, being in the euening: but bade him make the beſt benefit he could of the Citie, and very liberally gaue him an Angel, which *George* thankfully receiues, and about his buſineſſe he goes, got his ſtage made, his Hiſtory cried, and hired the Players Apparell, to floriſh out his Shew, promiſing to pay them liberally; and withall deſired them they would fauour him ſo much, as to gather him his money at the doore, (for hee thought it his beſt courſe to imploy them, leſt they ſhould ſpie out his knauery, for they haue perillous heads.) They willingly yeeld to do him any kindneſſe that lies in them; in briefe, carry their apparell to the Hall, place themſelues at the doore, where *George* in the meane time with the ten ſhillings he had of the Mayor, deliuered his horſe out of Purgatory, and carries him to the townes end, and there placeth him, to be ready at his comming. By this time the Audience were come, and ſo forty ſhillings gathered, which money *George* put in his purſe, and putting on one of the Players ſilke Robes, after the Trumpet had ſounded thrice, out he comes, makes low obeyſance, goes forward with his Prologue, which was thus:

A trifling Toy, a Ieſt of no account, pardie.
The Knight, perhaps you thinke for to be I:
Thinke on ſo ſtill; for why you know that thought is free,
Sit ſtill a while, Ile ſend the Actors to yee.

Which being ſaid, after ſome fire workes that he had made of purpoſe, threw out among them, and downe ſtaires goes he, gets to his Horſe, and ſo with fortie ſhillings to *London*; leaues the Players to anſwer it; who when the Jest was knowne, their innocence excuſed them, being as well gulled as the Maior and the Audience.

How *George* gulled a Punke, otherwiſe called a Croſhabell.

COmming to *London*, hee fell in company with a Cockatrice; which pleaſed his eye ſo well, that *George* fell aboording of her, and proffered her the wine: which my Croſhabell willingly accepted: to the Tauerne they go, where after a little idle talke, *George* fell to the queſtion about the thing you wot of. My ſhe-Hobby was very dainty, which made *George* farre more eager; and my lecherous animall proffered largely to obtaine his purpoſe. To conclude, nothing ſhe would grant vnto except ready coine, which was forty ſhillings, not a farthing leſſe: if ſo he would, next night ſhe would appoint him where he ſhould meet her. *George* ſaw how the game went, that ſhe was more for lucre than for loue, thus cunningly anſwered her: Gentlewoman, howſoeuer you ſpeake, I do not thinke your heart agrees with your tongue; the money you demand is but to trie me, and indeed but a trifle to mee: but becauſe it ſhall not be

ſaid

ſaid I bought that Iemme of you I prize ſo highlie, Ile giue you a token to morrow, that ſhall be more worth than your demand, if ſo you pleaſe to accept it. Sir, quoth ſhee, it contenteth me well: and ſo, if pleaſe you, at this time weele part, and to morrow in the euening meet you where you ſhall appoint. The place was determined, and they kiſt and parted, ſhe home, *George* into Saint Thomas Apoſtles, to a friend of his, of whom he knew he could take vp a peticoat of truſt: (the firſt letter of his name begins with *G.*) A Peticoat he had of him, at the price of fiue ſhillings; which money is owing till this day. The next night being come, they met at the place appointed, which was a Tauerne: there they were to ſuppe: that ended, *George* was to goe home with her, to end his Yeomans plee in her common caſe. But Maſter *Peele* had another drift in his mazzard: for he did ſo ply her with wine, that in a ſmall time ſhe ſpun ſuch a threed, that ſhe reeled homewards, and *George* he was faine to be her ſupporter: when to her houſe ſhe came, with nothing ſo much painting in the inſide, as her face had on the outſide; with much ado her maide had her to bed, who was no ſooner layd, but ſhe fell faſt aſleepe; which when *George* perceiued, he ſent the maide for Milke, and a quart of Sacke to make a Poſſet; where before her returne, *George* made ſo bold as to take vp his owne new Petticoat, a faire Gowne of hers, two gold Rings that lay in the window, and away he went: the Gowne and the gold Rings he made a chaffer of; the Petticoat he gaue to his honeſt wife, one of the beſt deeds he euer did to her. How the Croſhabell lookt when ſhe awaked and ſaw this, I was neuer there to know.

How the Gentleman was gulled for ſhauing of *George*.

GEorge had a Daughter of the age of tenne yeers, a Girle of a prettie forme, but of an excellent wit: all part of her was Father, ſaue her middle: and ſhe had *George* ſo tutored all night, that although himſelfe was the Author of it, yet had he beene transformed into his Daughters ſhape, he could not haue done it with more conceit. *George* at that time dwelt at the Bank-ſide, from whence comes this ſhe-ſinnow, early in the morning with her haire diſheuelled, wringing her hands, and making ſuch pitifull moane with ſhrikes and teares, and beating of her breſt, that made the people in a maze: ſome ſtood wondering at the Childe, others plucked her to know the occaſion; but none could ſtay her by any meanes, but on ſhe kept her iourney, crying, O, her Father, her good Father, her deare Father, ouer the Bridge, thorow Cheape-ſide, and ſo to the Old Bailey, where the Gentleman ſoiourned, there ſitting her ſelfe downe, an hundred people gaping vpon her, there ſhe begins to cry out, Woe to that place, that her Father euer ſaw it, ſhee was a caſt-away, her Mother was vndone, till with the noyſe, one of the Gentlemans men comming downe, looked on her, and knew her to bee *George Peeles* Daughter: hee preſently runnes vp, and tels his Maſter: who commanded his man to bring her vp. The Gentleman was in a cold ſweat, fearing that *George* had for the wrong he did him the day before, ſome way vndone himſelfe. When the Girle came vp, he demanded the cauſe why ſhe ſo lamented, and called vpon her Father? *George* his fleſh and bloud, after a million of ſighes, cried out vpon him, he had made her Father, her good father, drowne himſelfe. Which words

words once vttered, ſhe fell into a counterfeit ſwoone, whom the Gentleman ſoone recouered. This newes went to his heart, and he being a man of a very mild condition, cheered vp the Girle, made his men to go buy her new cloathes frō top to toe, ſaid he would be a father to her, gaue her fiue pounds, bid her go home and carry it to her mother, and in the euening he would viſit her: At this, by little and little ſhe began to be quiet, deſiring him to come and ſee her Mother. He tels her he will not faile, bids her goe home quietly. So downe ſtaires goes ſhe peartly, and the wondring people that ſtaid at doore to heare the manner of her griefe, had of her nought but knauiſh anſwers, and home went ſhe directly. The Gentleman was ſo croſſed in minde, and diſturbed in thought at this vnhappy accident, that his ſoule could not be in quiet till he had beene with this wofull widdow, as he thought, and preſently went to *Blacke Friers*, tooke a paire of Oares, and went directly to *George Peeles* houſe, where he found his Wife plucking of Larks, my crying Crocadile turning of the ſpit, and *George* pind vp in a blanket at his tranſlation. The Gentleman, more glad at the unlookt for life of *George*, than the loſſe of his money, tooke part of the good cheere *George* had to ſupper, wondred at the cunning of the Wench, and within ſome few daies after had an end of his Booke.

How *George* read a Play-booke to a Gentleman.

THere was a Gentleman, whom God had indued with good liuing to maintaine his ſmall wit: he was not a Foole abſolute, although in this world he had good fortune: and he was in a manner an Ingle to *George*, one that tooke great delight to haue the firſt hearing of any worke that *George* had done, himſelfe being a Writer, and

and had a Poeticall inuention of his owne, which when he had with great labour finiſhed, their fatall end was for priuy purpoſes. This ſelfe-conceited brocke had *George* inuented to halfe a ſcore ſheets of Paper; whoſe Chriſtainly pen had writ *Finis* to the famous Play of the Turkiſh *Mahomet*, and *Hyrin* the faire Greeke, in Italian called a Curtezan, in Spaine, a Margarite, French, *Vn Curtain*; in England, among the barbarous, a Whore; but among the Gentle, their vſuall aſſociates, a Puncke: but now the word refined being lateſt, and the authority brought from a Climate as yet vnconquered, the fruitfull County of Kent, they call them *Croſhabell*, which is a word but lately vſed, and fitting with their trade, being of a louely and courteous condition. Leauing them: This Fantaſticke, whoſe braine was made of nought but Corke and Spunge, came to the cold lodging of Monſieur *Peele*, in his blacke Sattin Sute, his Gowne furred with Coney, in his Slippers: being in the euening, he thought to heare *Georges* booke, and ſo to returne to his Inne; (this not of the wiſeſt, being of S. *Bernards*.) *George* bids him welcome, told him he would gladly haue his opinion in his booke. He willingly condeſcended, and *George* begins to read, and betweene euery Sceane he would make pauſes, and demand his opinion how he liked the cariage of it. Quoth he, wondrous well, the conueyance. O, but (quoth *George*) the end is farre better: for he meant another conueyance ere they two departed.) *George* was very tedious in reading, and the night grew old: I proteſt, quoth the Gentleman, I haue ſtayed ouer-long, I feare me I ſhall hardly get into mine Inne. If you feare that, quoth *George*, we will haue a cleane paire of ſheets, and you take a ſimple lodging here. This houſe-gull willingly embraced it, and to bed they goe, where *George* in the midſt of the night ſpying his time, put on this

Dormouſe

Dormouſe his cloaths, deſired God to keepe him in good reſt, honeſtly takes leaue of him and the houſe, to whom he was indebted foure Nobles. When this Drone awaked, and found himſelfe ſo left, he had not the wit to be angry, but ſwore ſcuruily at his misfortune, and ſaid, I thought he would not haue vſed me ſo. And although it ſo pleaſed the Fates he had another ſute to put on, yet he could not get thence, till he had paid the mony *George* ought to the houſe, which for his credit he did: and when he came to his lodging, in anger he made a Poem of it:

Peele *is no Poet, but a Gull and Clowne,*
To take away my Cloaths and Gowne:
I vow by Ioue, *if I can ſee him weare it,*
Ile giue him a glyg, and patiently beare it.

How *George Peele* ſerued halfe a ſcore Citizens.

GEorge once had inuited halfe a ſcore of his friends to a great Supper, where they were paſſing merry, no cheare wanting, wine enough, muſicke playing: the night growing on, and being vpon departure, they call for a reckoning. *George* ſwears there is not a penny for them to pay. They, being men of good faſhion, by no meanes will yeeld vnto it, but euery man throwes downe his money, ſome ten ſhillings, ſome fiue, ſome more: proteſting ſomething they will pay. Well, quoth *George*, taking vp all the mony; ſeeing you will be ſo wilfull, you ſhall ſee what ſhall follow: he commands the muſicke to play, and while they were ſkipping and dancing, *George* gets his cloake, ſends vp two pottles of Hypocraſſe, and leaues them and the reckoning to pay. They wondring at the ſtay of *George*, meant to be gone, but they were ſtaid

ſtaid by the way, and before they went, forced to pay the reckoning anew. This ſhewed a minde in him, he cared not whom he deceiued, ſo he profited himſelfe for the preſent.

A Ieſt of *George* going to *Oxford*.

THere was ſome halfe doozen of Citizens, that had oftentimes been ſolliciters with *George*, he being a Maſter of Art at the Uniuerſity of *Oxford*, that he would ride with them to the Commencement, it being at Midſomer. *George*, willing to pleaſure the Gentlemen his friends, rode along with them. When they had rode the better part of the way, they baited at a Village called *Stoken*, fiue miles from *Wickham*: good cheare was beſpoken for dinner, and frolicke was the company, all but *George*, who could not be in that pleaſant veine that did ordinarily poſſeſſe him, by reaſon he was without mony: but he had not fetcht forty turns about the chamber, before his noddle had entertained a conceit how to mony himſelfe with credit, and yet gleane it from ſome one of the company. There was among them one excellent Aſſe, a fellow that did nothing but friſke vp and downe the Chamber, that his mony might be heard chide in his pocket: this fellow had *George* obſerued, and ſecretly conuaied his gilt Rapier and Dagger into another Chamber, and there cloſely hid it: that done, he called vp the Tapſter, and upon his cloake borrowes fiue ſhilling for an houre or ſo, till his man came, (as he could faſhion it well enough:) ſo much mony he had, and then who more merry than *George?* Meat was brought vp, they ſet themſelues to dinner, all full of mirth, eſpecially my little foole, who dranke not of the concluſion of their feaſt: dinner ended, much prattle paſt

paſt, euery man begins to buckle to his furniture: among whom this Hichcocke miſſed his Rapier: at which all the company were in a maze; he beſides his wits, for he had borrowed it of a ſpeciall friend of his, and ſwore he had rather ſpend 20 Nobles. This is ſtrange, quoth *George*, it ſhould be gone in this faſhion, none being here but our ſelues, and the fellows of the houſe, who were examined, but no Rapier could be heard of: all the company much grieued; but *George* in a pittiful chafe, ſwore it ſhould coſt him forty ſhillings, but he would know what was become of it, if Art could doe it: and with that he cauſed the Oaſtler to ſaddle his Nag, for *George* would ride to a Scholler, a friend of his, that had ſkill in ſuch matters. O, good M. *Peele*, quoth the fellow, want no mony, here is forty ſhillings, ſee what you can doe, and if you pleaſe, Ile ride along with you. Not ſo, quoth *George*, taking his forty ſhillings, Ile ride alone, and be you as merry as you can till my returne. So *George* left them, and rode directly to *Oxford*, there he acquaints a friend of his with all the circumſtance, who preſently tooke Horſe and rode along with him to laugh at the ieſt. When they came backe, *George* tels them he had brought one of the rareſt men in *England:* whom they with much complement bid welcome. He, after a diſtracted countenance, and ſtrange words, takes this Bulfinch by the wriſt, and carried him into the priuy, and there willed him to put in his head, but while he had written his name, and told forty; which he willingly did: that done the Scholar aſked him what he ſaw? By my faith Sir, I ſmelt a villanous ſent, but I ſaw nothing. Then I haue, quoth he, and with that directed him where his Rapier was: ſaying, it is iuſt North-Eaſt, incloſed in wood neare the earth: for which they all made diligent ſearch, till *George*, who hid it under a ſettle, found it, to the comfort

of the fellow, the ioy of the company, and the eternall credit, of his friend, who was entertained with wine and ſugar; and *George* redeemed his cloake, rode merrily to *Oxford*, hauing coine in his pocket, where this Loach ſpares not for any expence, for the good fortune he had in the happy finding of his Rapier.

How *George* ſerued his Hoſtis.

GEorge lying at an old Widdows houſe, and had gone ſo farre on the ſcore, that his credit would ſtretch no farther: for ſhe had made a vow not to depart with drinke or victuals without ready mony: Which *George* ſeeing the fury of his froward Hoſtis, in griefe kept his chamber, called to his Hoſtis, and told her, ſhe ſhould vnderſtand that he was not without mony, how poorely ſoeuer he appeared to her, and that my diet ſhall teſtifie: in the meane time, good Hoſtis, quoth he, ſend for ſuch a friend of mine. She did, ſo his friend came, to whom *George* imparted his minde, the effect whereof was this, to pawne his Cloake, Hoſe and Doublet, vnknowne to his Hoſtis: for, quoth *George*, this ſeuen nights doe I intend to keepe my bed. (Truly he ſpake, for his intent was, the bed ſhould not keepe him any longer.) Away goes he to pawne his apparell; *George* beſpeakes good cheere to ſupper, which was no ſhamble-butchers ſtuffe, but according to the place: for, his Chamber being remote from the houſe, at the end of the Garden, his apparell being gone, it appeared to him as the Counter, therefore to comfort himſelfe, he dealt in Poultry. His friend brought the mony, ſupped with him, his Hoſtis he very liberally paid, but cauilled with her at her vnkindneſſe; vowing that while he lay there, none ſhould attend him but his friend. The Hoſtis replied, a Gods name, ſhe was well contented with it:

it: ſo was *George* too: for none knew better than himſelfe what he intended, but in briefe, thus he vſed his kind Hoſtis. After his apparrell and mony was gone, he made bold with the Feather bed he lay on, which his friend ſlily conueyed away, hauing as villanous a Wolfe in his belly as *George*, though not altogether ſo wiſe, for that Feather-bed they deuoured in two dayes, feathers and all: which was no ſooner digeſted, but away went the Couerlet, Sheets, and the Blanket; and at the laſt dinner, when *Georges* good friend perceiuing nothing left but the bed-cords, as the Deuill would haue it, ſtraight came in his mind the faſhion of a halter, the fooliſh kind knaue would needs fetch a quart of ſacke for his friend *George*; which ſacke to this day neuer ſaw Vintners Cellar: and ſo he left *George* in a cold Chamber, a thin ſhirt, a rauiſhed bed, no comfort left him, but the bare bones of deceaſed Capons. In this diſtreſſe *George* bethought him what he might doe, nothing was left him; and his eye wandered vp and downe the empty Chamber, by chance he ſpied out an old Armor, at which ſight *George* was the ioyfulleſt man in Chriſtendome, for the Armour of *Achilles*, that *Vlyſſes* and *Aiax* ſtroue for, was not more precious to them, than this to him: for he preſently claps it vpon his backe, the Halbert in his hand, the Moryon on his head, and ſo gets out the backe way, marches from Shorditch to Clarkenwell, to the no ſmall wonder of thoſe ſpectators that beheld him. Being arriued to the wiſhed hauen he would be, an old acquaintance of his furniſhed him with an old Sute, and an old Cloake for his old Armour. How the Hoſtis looked when ſhe ſaw that metamorphoſis in her chamber, iudge thoſe Bomborts that liue by tapping, between the age of fifty and threeſcore.

How he ſerued a Tapſter.

GEorge was making merry with three or foure of his friends in Pye-corner, where the Tapſter of the houſe was much giuen to Poetry: for he had ingroſſed the Knight of the Sunne, *Venus* and *Adonis*, and other Pamphlets which the ſtrippling had collected together, and knowing *George* to be a Poet, he tooke great delight in his company, and out of his bounty would beſtow a brace of Cannes of him. *George* obſeruing the humour of the Tapſter, meant preſently to worke vpon him. What will you ſay, quoth *George* to his friends, if out of this ſpirit of the Cellar I fetch a good Angell that ſhall bid vs all to ſupper. Wee would gladly ſee that, quoth his friends. Content your ſelfe, quoth *George*. The Tapſter aſcends with his two Cannes, deliuers one to M. *Peele*, and the other to his friends, giues them kinde welcome: but *George* in ſtead of giuing him thanks, bids him not to trouble him, and begins in theſe termes. I proteſt, Gentlemen, I wonder you will vrge me ſo much, I ſweare I haue it not about me. What is the matter, quoth the Tapſter, hath any one angered you? No faith, quoth *George*, Ile tell thee, it is this: There is a friend of ours in Newgate, for nothing but onely the command of the Juſtices, and he being now to be releaſed, ſends to me to bring him an Angell: Now the man I loue dearely well, and if he want ten Angels, he ſhall haue them, for I know him ſure: but heres the miſery, either I muſt goe home, or I muſt be forced to pawne this, and plucks an old Harry groat out of his pocket. The Tapſter lookes vpon it: Why, and it pleaſe you Sir, quoth he, this is but a groat. No Sir, quoth *George*, I know it is but a groat: but this groat will I not loſe for forty pounds: for this groat had I of my Mother,

as

as a teſtimony of a Leaſe of a houſe I am to poſſeſſe after her deceaſe: and if I ſhould loſe this groat, I were in a faire caſe: and either I muſt pawne this groat, or there the fellow muſt lie ſtill. Quoth the Tapſter, If it pleaſe you, I will lend you an Angell on it, and I will aſſure you it ſhall be ſafe. Wilt thou, quoth *George?* as thou art an honeſt man, locke it vp in thy Cheſt, and let me haue it whenſoeuer I call for it. As I am an honeſt man, you ſhall, quoth the Tapſter. *George* deliuered him his groat: the Tapſter gaue him ten ſhillings: to the Tauerne goe they with the mony, and there merrily ſpend it. It fell out in a ſmall time after, the Tapſter, hauing many of theſe lurches, fell to decay, and indeed was turned out of ſeruice, hauing no more coine in the world than this groat; and in this miſery he met *George* as poore as himſelfe. O ſir, quoth the Tapſter, you are happily met; I haue your groat ſafe, though ſince I ſaw you laſt, I haue bid great extremity; and I proteſt, ſaue that groat, I haue not one penny in the world; Therefore I pray you Sir, helpe me to my mony, and take your pawne. Not for the world, quoth *George*; thou ſaiſt thou haſt but that groat in the world, my bargaine was, that thou ſhouldſt keepe that groat vntill I did demand it of thee: I aſke thee none. I will do thee more good, becauſe thou art an honeſt fellow, keepe thou that groat ſtill, till I call for it: and ſo doing, the proudeſt Jacke in *England* cannot iuſtifie thou art not worth a groat, otherwiſe they might: and ſo, honeſt *Michael*, farewell. So *George* leaues the poor Tapſter picking of his fingers, his head full of proclamations what he might doe: at laſt ſighing he ends with this Prouerbe:

For the price of a barrel of Beere,
I haue bought a groats-worth of wit,
Is not that deare?

How

How *George* ſerued a Gentlewoman.

GEorge vſed often to an Ordnary in this Towne, where a kinſwoman of the good wifes in the houſe, held a great pride and vaine opinion of her own mother-wit: for her tongue was as a Jack continually wagging: and for ſhe had heard that *George* was a Scholler, ſhe thought ſhe would find a time to giue him notice, that ſhe had as much in her head, as euer was in her Grandfathers: yet in ſome things ſhe differed from the women of thoſe dayes: for their naturall complexion was their beauty: now this Titmouſe, what ſhe is ſcanted by nature, ſhe doth repleniſh by Art, as her boxes of red and white daily can teſtifie. But to come to *George*, who arriued at the Ordnary among other Gallants, throwes his cloake vpon the Table, ſalutes the Gentlemen, and preſently calls for a cup of Canary. *George* had a paire of Hoſe on, that for ſome offence durſt not bee ſeene in that hue they were firſt dyed in, but from his firſt colour being a youthfull green, his long age turned him into a mournfull black, and for his antiquity was in print: which this buſie body perceiuing, thought now to giue it him to the quicke: and drawing neere M. *Peele*, looking upon his breeches, By my troth, Sir, quoth ſhee, theſe are exceedingly well printed. At which word, *George* being a little moued in his mind, that his old Hoſe were called in queſtion, anſwered, and by my faith, Miſtris, quoth *George*, your face is moſt damnably ill painted. How mean you Sir, quoth ſhee? Marry thus, Miſtris, quoth *George*, That if it were not for printing and painting, my arſe and your face would grow out of reparations. At which ſhee biting her lip, in a parat fury went downe the ſtaires. The Gentlemen laughed at the ſudden anſwer of *George*, and being ſeated at dinner, the Gentlemen would needes haue the company

of

of this witty Gentlewoman to dine with them; who with little denying came, in hope to cry quittance with *George*. When ſhee was aſcended, the Gentlemen would needes place her by M. *Peele*; becauſe they did vſe to dart one at another, they thought it meet, for their more ſafety, they ſhould bee placed neereſt together. *George* kindly entertains her: and being ſeated, he deſires her to reach him the Capon that ſtood by her, and he would be ſo bold as to carue for his mony: and as ſhe put out her arme to take the Capon, *George* ſitting by her, yerks me out a huge fart, which made all the company in a maze, one looking vpon the other, yet they knew it came that way. Peace, quoth *George*, and iogs her on the elbow, I will ſay it was I. At which all the Company fell into a huge laughter, ſhee into a fretting fury, vowing neuer ſhe ſhould ſleepe quietly till ſhe was reuenged of *George* his wrong done vnto her: and ſo in a great chafe left their company.

FINIS.

J. Smeeton, Printer, 148, *St. Martin's Lane.*

GEORGE PEELE was a Native of Devonshire, from whence being sent to Broadgate's Hall, he was (about the year 1573) made a Student of Christ Church College, Oxford; and in 1579, was admitted to the degree of Master of Arts. After this he removed to London, where he became the City Poet, and had the ordering of the Pageants.

" This person" says Wood " was living in his middle age, in the latter part of Q. Elizabeth's reign, but when or where he died I cannot tell, for so it is and always hath been, that most poets die poor and consequently obscurely, and a hard matter it is to trace them to their Graves." He certainly died in or before the year 1598, as " Meres in the second Part of his Palladis Tamia, or Wits Treasury," printed in that year, mentions the Cause. A List of his Poetical Pieces is given in Ritson's Bibliographia Poetica.

Nash termed him " the chief supporter of pleasance, the Atlas of Poetrie, and *primum verborum artifex.*"

The rarity of his " Merrie Conceited Jests" combined with the great price demanded for it, was the chief Inducement to reprint it in its present Form. The Copy made use of for that purpose had belonged to the Rev J. BRAND, Secretary to the Antiquarian Society; after the Sale of his Library in 1806, it came into the possession of Mr. STACE, and the present Proprietor purchased it in December 1807.

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